GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE
LOK SABHA

STARRED QUESTION NO:319
ANSWERED ON:22.12.2004
CONFERENCE ON INFANT MORALITY
Das Gupta Shri Gurudas;Surendran Shri Chengara

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether a two-day Conference on child survival was held in New Delhi recently jointly by the Government of India and the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF);

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the programme drawn up, if any, for reducing infant mortality rate; and

(d) the response of the Government in this regard?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (DR. ANBUMANI RAMADOSS)

(a)to(d): A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. 319 FOR 22ND DECEMBER, 2004

(a) Yes, Sir. A two-day conference on child survival was held in New Delhi on 29th-30th November, 2004, jointly by the Government of India and the United Nations Children`s Fund (UNICEF).

(b) The conference was a response to the concern of the Government that the gains made in child health during the past two decades are stagnating. Hence, several organizations like UNICEF, WHO, World Bank, USAID, CIDA, DFID and the Gates Foundation, together with partner countries, professional, academic and research institutions have joined hands to forge a global Child Survival Partnership(CSP) to revitalize and re-energize the child survival revolution and to galvanize the world`s attention once again to focus on child survival related activities.

This conference was an opportunity for concerted action in major thrust areas of child health.

(c)&(d) A detailed programme for action has been drawn up for reducing infant mortality rate. It includes the following points:

- Rapid but high quality roll out of Integrated Management of Neonatal and Childhood Illnesses (IMNCI), child health strategy to include quality improvement and scale up prevention and treatment services for women and children affected by or vulnerable to HIV/AIDS

- Maternal and Child Health interventions to include services for Reproductive tract and sexually transmitted infections.

- Greater intersectoral co-ordination between the government departments and with the private sector and donor partners.

- Subset of key results and deliverables at district level pertaining to programme operations and management components considered crucial to child survival will be agreed upon, together with related indicators to ensure mobilizing and management action for child survival at different levels.

- Ensure a synergistic working relationship amongst various health and nutrition workers at village level.

- To address the issue of co-morbidity by combined delivery of strategic interventions, standards of excellence will be defined by the Government to ensure appropriate quality of care and managerial capacity